

## Theme Development

Vince Goddard  
Pinal County Attorney's  
Office

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## The Cases in the Middle

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## Ground Rules



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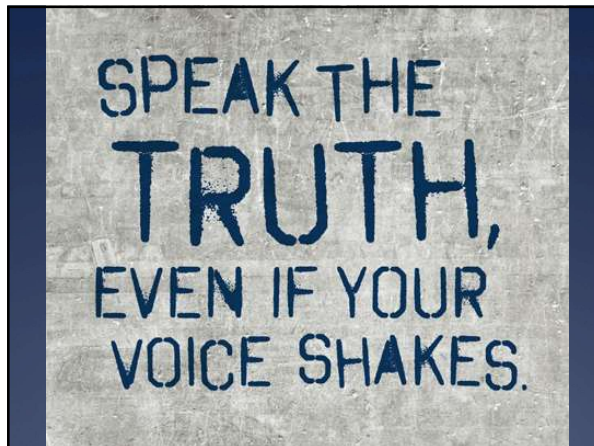
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What is the Ultimate Evil to  
the Criminal Justice System?

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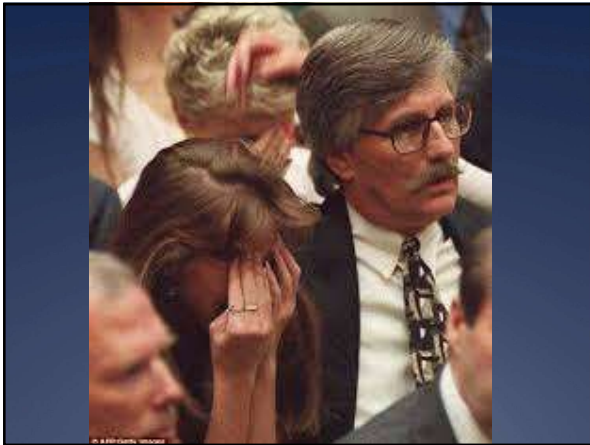
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Confusion is the lifeblood of  
wrongful acquittals

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I will be so bold as to say...

\*If you've ever lost a count or a case, you need to revisit how you approach themes

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Two Rules we live by

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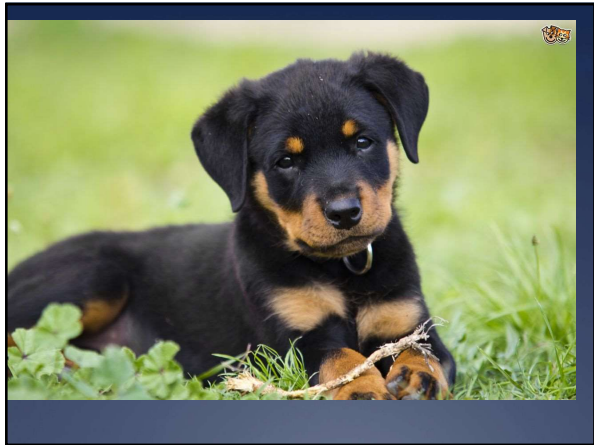
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Just Remember the Rules



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If you're gonna fight, fight  
like you're the third monkey  
on the ramp to Noah's Ark.  
...and brother, its starting to rain.

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Do they work?



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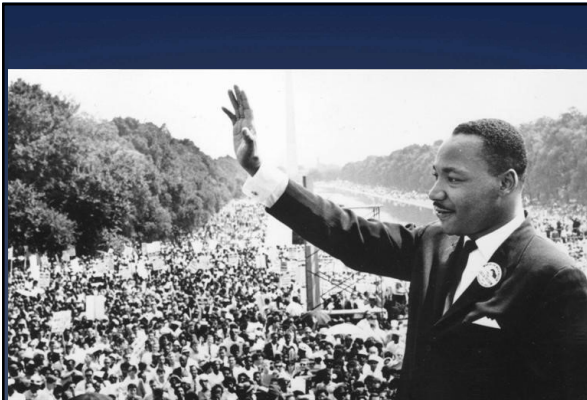
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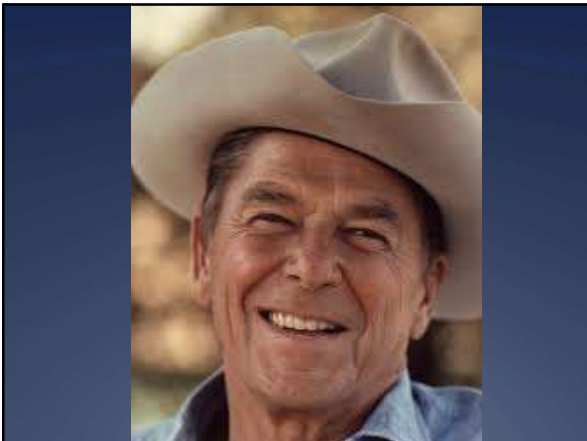
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# Theme Development

## Nuts and Bolts

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## My Lessons on Themes

- \* Good themes are generally drawn from one of two areas:
  - \* aspects that point out the brutality of man,
  - \* or the beauty of life

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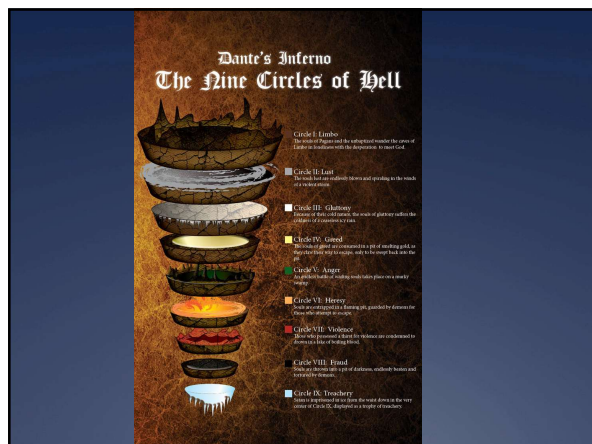
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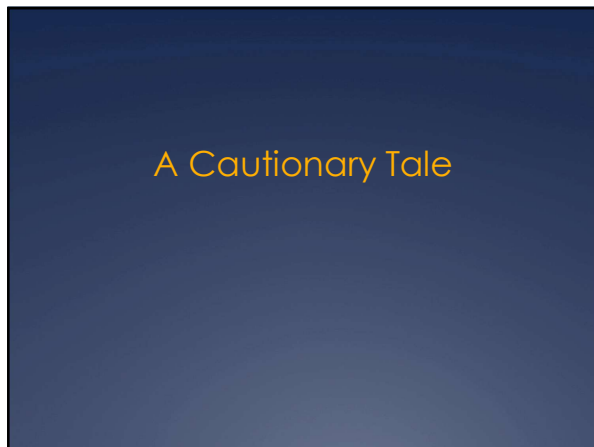
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## Caution!

- \* You should be very careful about anything that touches on what the defendant "thinks"
- \* E.g.: "Your verdict will decide if the defendant is right"

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## Places to look

- \* Defendant's Conduct
- \* Statements made by the defendant
- \* Statements of witnesses
- \* Don't Forget the community where the crime happened
- \* First Impression of Police on scene
  - \* "Officer, what was the first thing you thought about when you walked into that hospital?"

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"My case doesn't really lend itself to a theme"

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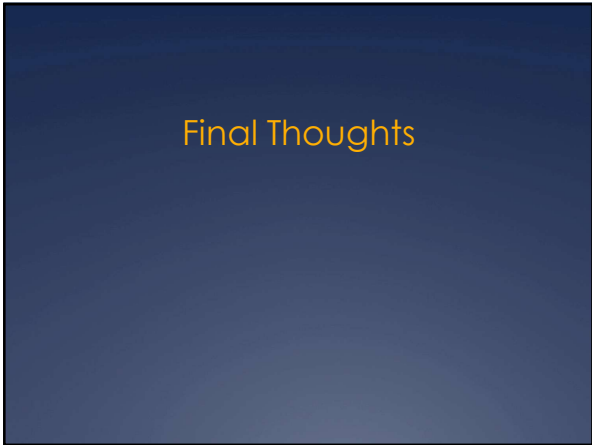
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